



## Make Mine Chocolate!

The Make Mine Chocolate! UK organisation is about changing the way rabbits are perceived and cared for.

This independent organisation is working hard to raise awareness of welfare needs - especially in relation to the problem of impulse buying from the 'cute fluffy' factor.

It is well documented the issue of impulse buying leads significant number of rabbits surrendered to rescue - or worse, neglected or dumped to face certain death. Around 60% of rabbits entering rescue in the UK have been owned for less than a year, with a staggering 40% of these being owned for less than six months!

It is time to make a significant welfare improvement and Make Mine Chocolate! UK is dedicated to this objective. With ground-breaking projects such as the Easter Amnesty, Make Mine Chocolate! UK is working hard to spread the message that rabbits are a life-long commitment; those not ready can buy a chocolate one instead!

In addition, extensive support material for those with rabbits, or those considering obtaining rabbits, is designed to improve rabbit welfare and understanding of their needs, and finally break the cycle of a lack of education in rabbit care.

# Winter Warmer Tips

Domestic rabbits don't have the luxury of a burrow to stay warm in during the winter months; they rely on us to keep them snug. Here's our top 10 tips to help keep the winter at bay!

## Snug as a Burrow!

Rabbits are ideally suited to a temperature range of around 10 - 20C. Wild rabbits use their burrows to keep away from the summer heat and the winter cold. But domestic rabbits need their owner's help during challenging weather to survive.

## The 10 Point Guide

The following guide is not exhaustive, but covers some of the essentials for coping with winter.

- 1. Extra Hay & Straw** - Straw is a great insulator and both hay and straw are great to burrow in to help keep snug. Rabbit safe heatpads are great too!
- 2. Newspapers** - Line the base of the hutch with numerous layers of newspapers (staples removed!) to help insulate the base.
- 3. Hay Filled Boxes** - cardboard boxes filled with hay help to keep out draughts and gives additional draught

protection.

**4. Hutch Cover** - Bought or home made (tarpaulin etc) can give extra shelter. Ensure the hutch is well ventilated!

**5. Hutch Location** - Locate the hutch in a sheltered area and during storms turn away from wind and rain/snow if possible.

**6. Bottles & Bowls** - check frequently to ensure not frozen. Use heat pads/bottle covers to help prevent freezing. Replace bottles if leaky.

**7. Soiled Bedding** - remove frequently to ensure bedding remains dry and ice free.

**8. Temperature** - temporarily relocate to outhouse/garage if temperature falls too low.

**9. Monitor Weight** - check with a vet if weight loss detected.

**10. Check & Check Again** - throughout the day/evening. ***They rely on you.***

